IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing target ~~files~~ documents referred to by referring documents, comprising the steps of:

identifying one or more referring documents having ~~a~~ at least one hypertext link pointing to a target document stored in a storage;

determining when the ~~referring documents~~ at least one hypertext link in the one or more referring documents ~~cease to have hyperlinks pointing to the target document~~ ceases to exist; and

enabling ~~removing~~ removal of the target document from the storage when the at least one hypertext link in the one or more referring documents ceases to exist.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the one or more referring documents and ~~said~~ the target document are stored in different storage devices coupled over a network.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the one or more referring documents and ~~said~~ the target document are stored in the same storage device.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the storage decrements~~ further comprising the step of decrementing a counter for the target document when a ~~referring document is deleted~~ hypertext link ceases to exist.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of:

determining whether the count for the counter of the target document equals zero.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein if the counter equals zero, ~~then the steps~~ further comprising the step of:

sending a message to an author of the target document asking whether the author ~~client~~ wants to delete the target document from the storage.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of providing security for target ~~files~~ documents referred to by referring documents, comprising the steps of:

identifying a first referring document having a ~~hyperlink~~ hypertext link pointing to a target document stored in a storage, the first referring document having a security access requirement; and

applying ~~said~~ the security access requirement to the target document.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, ~~which~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising the steps of:

identifying a second referring document having a ~~hyperlink~~ hypertext link pointing to the target document stored in ~~a~~ the storage:

determining whether the second referring document has ~~said~~ the security access requirement; and

preventing ~~said~~ the second referring document from accessing ~~said~~ the target document if ~~said~~ the second referring document does not have ~~said~~ the security access requirement.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein ~~said~~ the first referring ~~documents~~ document, the second referring document and ~~said~~ the target document are stored in different storage devices coupled over a network.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein ~~said~~ the first referring ~~documents~~ document, the second referring document and ~~said~~ the target document are stored in the same storage device.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, <u>further comprising the step of</u> <u>decrementing</u> ~~wherein the storage decrements~~ a counter for the target document when a ~~referring~~ ~~document is deleted~~ <u>hypertext link ceases to exist</u>.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, ~~which~~ further ~~comprises~~ <u>comprising the</u> <u>step of</u>:

determining whether the count for the counter of the target document equals zero.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein if the counter equals zero, ~~then~~ ~~the steps~~ <u>further</u> comprising <u>the step of</u>:

sending a message to an author of the target document asking whether the author ~~client~~ wants to delete the target document from the storage.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for managing target ~~files~~ <u>documents</u> referred to by referring documents, comprising:

a storage for storing a target document;

a processor coupled to the storage, for identifying <u>one or more</u> referring documents having ~~a~~ <u>at least one</u> ~~hyperlink~~ <u>hypertext link</u> pointing to the target document;

wherein the ~~said~~ processor ~~determining~~ <u>determines</u> when the ~~referring documents cease to~~ ~~have hyperlinks~~ <u>at least one hypertext link in the one or more referring documents</u> ~~pointing to the~~ ~~target document~~ <u>ceases to exist</u>; and

wherein the ~~said~~ storage ~~enabling~~ <u>enables</u> removal of the target document <u>when the at least</u> <u>one hypertext link in the one or more referring documents ceases to exist</u>.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16, wherein ~~said~~ <u>the one or more</u> referring documents and ~~said~~ <u>the</u> target document are stored in different storage devices coupled over a network.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16, wherein ~~said~~ the one or more referring documents and ~~said~~ the target document are stored in the same storage device.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16, ~~wherein the storage decrements~~ further comprising means for decrementing a counter for the target document when a ~~referring document is deleted~~ hypertext link is ceases to exist.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, ~~which~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising:

means for determining whether the count for the counter of the target document equals zero.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein if the counter equals zero, ~~then~~ further comprising:

means for sending a message to an author of the target document asking whether the author ~~client~~ wants to delete the target document from the storage.

23. (Currently Amended) A system of providing security for target ~~files~~ documents referred to by referring documents, comprising:

a processor for identifying a first referring document having a ~~hyperlink~~ hypertext link pointing to a target document stored in a storage, the first referring document having a security access requirement; and

a storage coupled to the processor, for applying ~~said~~ the security access requirement to the target document from the first referring document.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23, ~~which~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising:

means for identifying a second referring document having a ~~hyperlink~~ hypertext link pointing to the target document stored in ~~a~~ the storage:

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means for determining whether the second referring document has ~~said~~ the security access requirement; and

means for preventing ~~said~~ the second referring document from accessing ~~said~~ the target document if ~~said~~ the second referring document does not have ~~said~~ the security access requirement.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23, wherein ~~said~~ the first referring ~~documents~~ document, the second referring document and ~~said~~ the target document are stored in different storage devices coupled over a network.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23, wherein ~~said~~ the first referring ~~documents~~ document, the second referring document and ~~said~~ the target document are stored in the same storage device.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23, ~~wherein the~~ further comprising means for decrementing ~~storage decrements~~ a counter for the target document when a ~~referring document is deleted~~ hypertext link ceases to exist.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 27, ~~which~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising:
means for determining whether the count for the counter of the target document equals zero.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28, wherein if the counter equals zero, ~~then~~ further comprising:
means for sending a message to an author of the target document asking whether the author ~~client~~ wants to delete the target document from the storage.

30. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein a hypertext link pointing to a target document ceases to exist when the hypertext link is deleted.

31. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein a hypertext link pointing to a target document ceases to exist when a referring document having the hypertext link is deleted.